crude oil and natural gas, to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The draft PNGRB Bill is under the consideration of the Government. The Transport and Mines sectors are not covered in the draft PNGRB Bill.

Amount sanctioned to Chhattisgarh

†2246. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2947 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) the reasons for not releasing the full amount by the Central Government sactioned for Chhattisgarh;

(b) the actual amount demanded by the State Government during the above period;

(c) the total amount lapsed during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the achievements made by spending the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Tourism sanctions central financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure in various States including the State of Chhattisgarh in consultation with them. While sanctioning these projects the first instalment of 30% of the sanctioned amount is released to start the work. However, from the year 2004-05 this limit has been increased to 80%. The balance amount is released on submission of utilization certificate and other required documents, as per guidelines.

(b) Every year the projects are prioritized in consultation with the State Government under the following schemes:

(1) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(2) Integrated development of Tourism Circuits

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating projects.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

On receipt of the proposals, complete in all respect, they are scrutinized as per guidelines and are processed on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Execution and implementation of the projects santioned by Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government. Funds released as on date for the last three years to Chattisgarh are as under:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Sanctioned amount	Released amount
2002-03	308.00	249.59
2003-04	1005.00	389.40
2004-05	1117.94	884.85

Development of infrastructure for adventure tourism

2247. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adventure tourism is fast picking up in our country and would be one of the biggest foreign exchange earner in times to come;

(b) the present status of this industry and what is the action plan of Government to develop the required infrastructure, as India is a perfect playing ground for a host of adventure sports like white water river rafting, paragliding, hot air ballooning, skiing, mountain biking etc; and

(c) the position of Orissa in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territories for the development and promotion of tourism projects including adventure tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities, Assistance is given to State/UT's to enable them to put up infrastructural facilities and procurement of equipment for activities such as white water river rafting,